

**MINUTES
MACOMB COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 9, 2006**

President Perna began the meeting at 7:30 a.m. held at Freedom Hill County Park.

ROLL CALL

In Attendance:

James M. Perna, President
Gasper Salerno, Vice-President
Ann E. Klein, Secretary
Dino F. Bucci Jr., Sgt. At Arms
Anthony J. Lipinski
Gene Schabath, Rep. Anthony Marrocco
Thomas Raymus
Marvin E. Sauger
Betty Slinde

Absent/Excused:

Timothy M. Malone, excused
Phillip A. DiMaria, absent

Others Present:

Anthony G. Casasanta and Sharon Quinn of Parks & Recreation; Jim Meyerand, Corporation Counsel; Gerry Santoro, Planning & Economic Development

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. SAUGER, SUPPORTED BY MR. BUCCI TO APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH ONE ADDITION UNDER OLD BUSINESS 7C. UPDATE TO MASTER PLAN. MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. SALERNO, SUPPORTED BY MR. SAUGER TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 11, 2006 WITH TWO REVISIONS: REVISION (1) UNDER POLICE AND FIRE MEMORIAL REQUEST, CLARIFY LAST PARAGRAPH OF DISCUSSION AND ADD LOCATION SITE WILL BE PENDING UPON THE OUTCOME OF THE MASTER PLAN; REVISION (2) ON MOTION MADE TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS ATTORNEY/CLIENT PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATION AND REVISE WITH: MOTION WAS MADE TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS PENDING LITIGATION. MOTION CARRIED.

BUDGET REPORT

Mr. Casasanta reported that the budget sheets do not accurately reflect parking fee revenues, as the County is not receiving \$10,000 from Hillside. This inaccuracy has been brought to the attention of the Finance Department.

Mr. Lipinski asked if the Park expects to meet the building rental revenue amount of \$8,000. Mr. Casasanta responded we are awaiting a few more rental receipts that should bring us closer to that amount.

Mr. Lipinski also asked about the line item for catering. Mr. Casasanta responded that the Finance Department is still showing figures in that line item.

Mr. Casasanta reported that his calculations of parking revenues after rebates just on our events, excluding concerts, at the Park is \$125,504, this is not an official amount from the Finance Department.

Ms. Slinde asked the status with building rentals and catering requests. Mr. Casasanta responded that we are making reservations for private non-food events and reservations for county departments and we do provide coffee at nominal rates. He further stated that County Departments have been given waivers on catering and rental charges.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MS. KLEIN, SUPPORTED BY MR. BUCCI APPROVING THE BUDGET REPORT AS SUBMITTED. MOTION CARRIED.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Casasanta referenced his monthly report sent to the Operations Committee and correspondence from the Sterling Heights Fire Department regarding a County-wide Hazmat meeting held at our facility in October. Mr. Casasanta reported he waived charges for this county coordinated event.

A MOTION BY MR. SALERNO, SUPPORTED BY MR. RAYMUS WAS MADE TO RECEIVE AND FILE CORRESPONDENCE. MOTION CARRIED.

OLD BUSINESS

2007 Senior Swing Dances

Mr. Perna reported there are four remaining Senior Swing dances for 2006 funded with allocations made in August by the Full Board. Mr. Perna stated he sent letters to businesses asking for donations to continue Senior Swing dances; however, he has not received any contributions. Mr. Perna further reported he plans to announce at the next dance, that there will be a \$3.00 charge for Senior Swing dances starting in January and should attendance drop the dances will likely be cancelled. Mr. Perna asked the Parks Commissioners for assistance on seeking sponsorships for future dances. He further added that he would be approaching the new Chair of the Board of Commissioners on funding these dances in 2007.

Discussion ensued regarding sponsorships and media contacts for soliciting donations and fundraising.

Ms. Klein asked for a copy of Mr. Perna's letter of request for donations. She will be approaching some businesses for contributions. Ms. Klein donated \$100 for the Senior Swing dances. Mr. Bucci also expressed an interest in donating.

Environmental Update of Freedom Hill

Mr. Casasanta responded to Commissioner Slinde's request for a representative from Brown and Caldwell attend a Parks Commission meeting by explaining that there is no further movement on the landfill since the environmental company is waiting for issues over access between Oakland County Drain and residents to be resolved.

A MOTION BY MS. SLINDE, SUPPORTED BY MR. SALERNO WAS MADE TO RECEIVE AND FILE THE BROWN AND CALDWELL ENVIRONMENTAL COMPANY REPORT AS SUBMITTED. MOTION CARRIED.

Update of Master Plan

Mr. Santoro of the Planning Department presented an outline and stated they are about 60-70 percent done with the draft text that will be available in December for review by the Parks & Recreation Commission. Mr. Santoro proceeded to describe the two part summary outline and highlighted several areas. Mr. Santoro specified public comments under the first part of summary as follows: acquire as much open space as possible; partnership with local government; and develop overnight camping. Mr. Santoro stated that under the second part of the summary, the overwhelming issue with Macomb Orchard Trail was connectivity and the public would like to see additional linkages. He further outlined Freedom Hill County Park issues: interior pedestrian/bike path and connection with the trail; plant trees to create a park like atmosphere; red run linkages and wayfinding educational programs. He also stated they had quite a few emails and few phone calls asking for longer terms on flea markets.

Mr. Santoro said he met with Chesterfield Twp. officials regarding the Selfridge housing at Sugarbush Road and that the Township Clerk is sworn to secrecy and cannot discuss the plans. Mr. Santoro would not recommend doing anything east of the river, as there would be too much work and cost involved. Ms. Slinde asked Mr. Santoro what the Parks Commission would have to do if we would like to obtain the land at Selfridge. Mr. Santoro believed a study would need to be done and have to go before the Full Board for fact-finding and recommendation.

Mr. Schabath asked who has first opportunity to the Selfridge land. Mr. Santoro responded that Chesterfield Township and then the Housing Coalition would have first opportunity.

Further discussion ensued.

Ms. Slinde asked Mr. Santoro to write up a formal request of interest regarding the Selfridge land. Mr. Santoro suggested the Commission should decide by early next year regarding the land. He further stated that the deadline for the land to be decommissioned is June 2008.

Mr. Santoro also stated that Wetzel State Park could also be a consideration in the master plan.

NEW BUSINESS

101 WRIF Radio HarleyFest, June 16, 2007
6th Annual L.E.T.S. E.A.T. Food Drive, September 8, 2007
25th Annual Battle of the Brits Car Show, September 9, 2007
13th Annual Walk for Lupus, September 29, 2007

Ms. Klein strongly suggested that there be \$10 parking fee for HarleyFest to expedite the process of patrons entering the main gates and reduce backup of traffic on 16 Mile Road.

Discussion ensued regards to raising the parking fee and potential donations for other community programs.

Mr. Perna requested Mr. Casasanta to contact the sponsor for HarleyFest about increasing the parking fee for this event.

Ms. Klein also suggested a plaque for the Battle of the Brits Car Show for their 25th annual event.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MS. KLEIN, SUPPORTED BY MS. SLINDE APPROVING HARLEYFEST, LETS EAT FOOD DRIVE, BATTLE OF THE BRITS AND ANNUAL WALK FOR LUPUS EVENTS IN 2007 AT THE COUNTY PARK. MOTION CARRIED.

OTHER

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION BY MS. KLEIN, SUPPORTED BY MR. BUCCI WAS MADE TO ADJOURN THE COMMISSION MEETING. MOTION CARRIED.

President Perna adjourned the Parks & Recreation Commission meeting at 8:30 a.m.

Sincerely,

Ann E. Klein, Secretary
Macomb County Parks & Recreation Commission

AEK\sq